



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

SATUREJA DOUGLASII
YERBA BUENA

Yerba Buena is an aromatic perennial with short ascending stems arising from creeping above-ground woody branches that often root, and a woody rootstock. The leaves are opposite, 1-3.5 cm long and oval to almost round in shape, with bluntly toothed margins and sunken, resin filled dots on the surfaces and short petioles. Flowers are borne singly on 5-15 mm long stalks in the leaf axils. The calyx is 4-5 mm long and tubular shaped with 12-15 nerves and 5 teeth. The corolla is tubular with distinct short upper and lower lips at its mouth; it is 7-10 mm long, white to cream or purple-tinged, slightly hairy on the outside, and bears 4 stamens on the inside. There is a single pistil with a long slender style that has a 2-branched tip. Flowering in July, fruiting in early August-October.

Distinguished from other genera in the Mint Family by the combination of creeping stems, bluntly toothed leaf margins, and solitary, axillary, stalked flowers, each with a 5 toothed calyx, 2-lipped corolla, and 4 stamens.